

Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030)

Governance structure

The Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030), launched at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2016, is a multi-stakeholder Partnership that brings together governments, international and regional organizations, civil society organizations, social partners and other organizations.

A. Mission

The mission of USP2030 is a world in which anyone who needs social protection can access it at any time. To that end, USP2030 urges countries and international partners to support the global commitment to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Universal social protection is key to sustained inclusive economic and social development for individuals, communities and nations. It is also a human right.

The USP2030 Call to Action highlights five core principles of universal social protection:

- (1) **Protection throughout life cycle:** Establish universal social protection systems, including floors, that provide adequate protection throughout the life cycle, combining social insurance, social assistance and other means, anchored in national strategies and legislation;
- (2) **Universal coverage:** Provide universal access to social protection and ensure that social protection systems are rights-based, gender-sensitive and inclusive, leaving no one behind;
- (3) **National ownership:** Develop social protection strategies and policies based on national priorities and circumstances in close cooperation with all relevant actors;
- (4) **Sustainable and equitable financing:** Ensure the sustainability and fairness of social protection systems by prioritizing reliable and equitable forms of domestic financing, complemented by international cooperation and support where necessary;
- (5) **Participation and social dialogue:** Strengthen governance of social protection systems through institutional leadership, multi-sector coordination and the participation of social partners and other relevant and representative organizations, to generate broad-based support and promote the effectiveness of services.

B. Activities and methods of work

The activities of USP2030 to achieve its mission may include but are not limited to:

- a global campaign;
- engagement in advocacy;
- knowledge development and sharing;
- technical exchanges and joint support to countries, including for:
 - strengthening social protection policies, programmes and integrated administration systems;
 - expanding fiscal space for universal social protection;
 - addressing bottlenecks;
 - adequately integrating universal social protection into national development strategies.

The concrete working methods of USP2030 will be activity-oriented. In addition to activities carried out by its secretariat, with the support of partners as necessary, USP2030 may establish ad hoc working or technical groups to carry out specific activities.

In its pursuit to strengthen universal social protection, USP2030 will engage with related partnerships, alliances and networks that share, complement or facilitate its mission and objectives.

C. Membership Assembly

The USP2030 Membership Assembly should meet annually, either in-person or via remote participation. Members will always have the possibility to join remotely and/or to provide their comments in writing to the USP2030 secretariat prior to the meeting of the Assembly. The purpose of the Assembly is to provide a forum at which, among other things:

- the secretariat will report on implemented and planned activities;
- the Steering Committee will present the annual workplan and, if necessary, adjustments of the strategy or governance structure;
- members will discuss the workplan and approve the strategy or proposed changes to the strategy or governance structure;
- members will approve candidates for Steering Committee seats.

The Assembly will seek to take decisions by consensus. In the event that a consensus cannot be reached, decisions will be taken by majority vote in an open ballot, whereby both a simple majority among government representatives and a simple majority among all members must be achieved.

D. Members

Role

All members are invited to actively participate in the partnership, in line with the activities and methods of work provided in section B, thereby both contributing to and benefiting from USP2030.

More specifically, members will:

- adopt the governance structure of USP2030;
- participate and vote in the Membership Assembly;
- participate in activities carried out by USP2030 and ad hoc or technical working groups.

Membership criteria

USP2030 is an inclusive Partnership that is open to all governments and organizations that embrace its aims, as set out in the Call to Action. Criteria for membership are the following:

- **Governments:** All United Nations Member States are eligible to join USP2030. Interest in, and commitment to, the Call to Action must be expressed at least at the ministerial level. Governments may nominate one government agency or other organization to represent them in USP2030 by informing the Steering Committee in writing.
- **International and regional organizations, civil society organizations, social partners and other organizations:** All organizations that work on social protection and are committed to the Call to Action are eligible to join USP2030. Organizations that are part of a network that is eligible to be a member of USP2030 in its own right, such as the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors or the International Trade Union Confederation, are also welcome to join USP2030 independently.

Expression of interest

To join USP2030, the ministry or head of organization should submit a formal letter for the consideration of the Steering Committee (PDF to secretariat@usp2030.org), stating their interest in joining and affirming their commitment to the Call to Action.

Admission procedure

The USP2030 secretariat will forward expressions of interest to all members of the Steering Committee. If the secretariat receives no comments on the expression of interest by members of the Steering Committee within ten working days, it will automatically send a letter of confirmation of membership to the government/organization by email, with a copy to all members of the Steering Committee. If at least one partner of the Steering Committee expresses doubt regarding the admission of a new member, based on the membership criteria detailed above, their admission will be delayed until the Steering Committee has decided the case.

E. Steering Committee

Role

The roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee include:

- development and regular update of the USP2030 strategy;
- approval of the annual workplan developed by the secretariat in line with the strategy;
- guidance of the secretariat in coordinating the implementation of the workplan.

The Steering Committee is bound by the actions and principles in the Call to Action and is committed to leading by example through its adherence to the Call to Action.

Composition

The Steering Committee has 12 members, representing international organizations, governments of United Nations Member States at different levels of economic development and from different regions, civil society and trade unions. The composition of the Steering Committee reflects the USP2030 commitment to representation and inclusivity.

USP2030 is co-chaired by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank.

The seats are distributed as follows:

- 2 seats for the Co-Chairs
- 2 seats for international organizations, of which at least one should be a United Nations organization
- 6 seats for governments, namely:
 - 2 seats for representatives of low-income countries, including countries that have recently graduated from this status (in the last 15 years)
 - 2 seats for representatives of middle-income countries
 - 2 seats for representatives of high-income countries
- 1 seat for civil society organizations
- 1 seat for trade unions

Subject to the expression of interest by other USP2030 members to join the Steering Committee, its seats will be rotated every three years, maintaining the above composition. No more than 6 seats per year may be replaced.

Decision-making

In line with the USP2030 commitment to representation and inclusivity, the Steering Committee will seek to take decisions based on consensus that are in the best interests of USP2030 and its mission. In the event that a consensus cannot be reached, decisions will be taken by a two-thirds majority.

Functioning

Steering Committee meetings will be held on a regular basis (approximately two remote or in-person meetings per year). Whether meetings are organized in person or remotely, Steering Committee members will always have the option to join remotely and/or to provide their comments or vote in writing to the USP2030 secretariat prior to the meeting.

F. Secretariat

Role

The roles and responsibilities of the USP2030 secretariat include:

- development of the annual workplan for the approval of the Steering Committee;
- coordination of the implementation of the annual workplan;
- regular reporting on planned and implemented activities to all members of USP2030;
- preparation of meetings of the Steering Committee and the Membership Assembly, as well as other meetings or conferences foreseen in the workplan;
- provision of synthesis reports/briefs/presentations at USP2030 meetings, conferences or other events;
- facilitation of exchanges among USP2030 members;
- support for resource mobilization activities to maintain USP2030 activities;
- management of daily operations, including the admission of new members and the maintenance of the www.usp2030.org website.

Composition

The USP2030 secretariat is co-hosted by the ILO and the World Bank.

G. Use of USP2030 logo

Members are welcome to use the USP2030 logo to promote and advance its objectives. Members are asked to request approval for using the logo, indicating how it will be used. Requests should be directed to the USP2030 secretariat, which will provide the official logo.

The logo of USP2030 may not be used for commercial or promotional purposes and may not be changed or adapted. The use of the USP2030 logo does not represent endorsement of non-USP2030 content by the Steering Committee or other USP2030 partners. Furthermore, the logo may not be used in a way that could suggest that USP2030 is the author or owner of such content.

H. Changes or amendments to the governance structure of USP2030

All members of USP2030 may propose changes or amendments to its governance structure in order to adapt its functioning to new needs or changing realities. All proposed changes or amendments must be approved by the Membership Assembly.